

Milton
ORGI FUND FOR INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM
ORGI OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB
CIA 3.01-3 Journalism
(orig under Viorst)

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Mr. Milton Viorst
The Fund for Investigative
Journalism, Inc.
1346 Connecticut Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Mr. Viorst,

I am responding to your letter of July 5 to Mr.
George Bush, Director of Central Intelligence.

The statement published on February 11, of which you have a copy, is, of course, in effect, and the Agency is in full compliance with these self-imposed guidelines. The prohibition on further use by the Agency of journalists employed by American news-gathering organizations was, as you are aware, a purely voluntary act on the part of the Agency to eliminate even the appearance of possible impropriety and to meet the constitutional concerns about which all of us feel strongly. On June 24, we had a lengthy meeting with officials of the National News Council, at their request, to provide some clarification and interpretation of the February 11 statement. You may wish to contact the Council if you are interested in their assessment of the discussion and their statement to the press on our meeting.

With reference to your comment on the Overseas Press Club appearance by the Director: the reason that an approach by that organization to the CIA is not mentioned in Mr. Bush's letter is, quite simply, that we have no record of any communication from the Overseas Press Club on this subject and no knowledge of any action such as you describe.